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MOVEMENT OF RADIO TRANSMITTERED PARAFFIN DIPHACINONE BAIT BLOCKS BY FOREST POCKET GOPHERS (THOMOMYS spp.). J.P. FARLEY and D.L. CAMPBELL, USDA APHIS S&T, Denver Wildlife Research Center, Forest Animal Research, Olympia, WA.

The fate of bait blocks (EPA Reg. No. 56-57) designed for long term control of pocket gopher damage to conifers is being evaluated in southern Oregon. Six gram radio transmitters were embedded in 31 bait blocks (10.5- x 4.5- x 3 cm) on two study units. Blocks (129 g) fit tightly in 15 cm deep active burrows in 26 pocket gopher burrow systems. Transmitters were attached to 12 pocket gophers (8♀ and 4♂) in these systems; animal weights averaged 72.3 g (63 g to 80 g). Bait blocks and gophers were monitored for about 56 days. Transmitters/bait blocks were repeatedly moved by pocket gophers. Transmitters or bait were recovered from burrows (57%), food caches (30%), nests (7%), and above ground (6%); one was not recovered. Movement averaged 8.7 m to food caches, 3.2 m to nests, and 7.9 m in burrows; maximum movement was 28.2 m. Average recovery depth was 0.5 m and the deepest was 0.9 m. Thirteen percent of the blocks remained whole or partly chewed. Overall, 84% of the bait blocks were moved.